

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

GUIDANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FORM

KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET/DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Environmental Assessment Prepared by: _____			
Author		Firm	
County:	Route:	Item No.:	
Description:			
Prime Consultant:			
Due Date:	Submittal Date:	Submittal Draft #:	Approval Date:

Instructions:

Environmental Assessment Prepared by: Name of author/firm that prepared the study. **County:** Name of county(ies) within which the project is located.

Route: Name of highway for which the project is intended. Include route designation and number as applicable (i.e. US 60, Winchester Rd.)

Item No.: Item number as it appears in the contract and Six Year Plan that corresponds with the project.

Description: Official description of the project as it appears in the Six Year Plan.

Prime Consultant: Name of the Phase I Design and Environmental Consultant (prime contract holder) for the project.

Due Date: Date that the project is due as agreed upon in contract negotiation.

Date of Submittal/Submittal Draft Number: Date of submittal and draft being submitted (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in appropriate sections.

Approval Date: Date EA is approved by DEA (***DEA use only***).

For "Page Number(s)" column: Identify page numbers where information from all applicable areas of focus can be found.

For "Completed" column: use **Y** for yes and **NA** for not applicable as necessary (***Consultant's responsibility***).

For "DEA" Column: DEA will use ✓ for all areas that adequately address concerns, and "I" for those that are insufficient in coverage.

"Comment" page: Discuss supplemental information, guidance or instructions, if any, that required deviation from the checklist. Discuss all categories, which contain "NA" in the "Complete" columns of this format. Comments regarding the content and format of this form and/or its applicability may also be submitted in the comments section.

"Commitments to be implemented" page: Identify any commitments that are documented within the study. Specify the nature of the commitment, to whom it was or should be made, when the commitment should be enacted upon, etc.

"Mitigation and Special Issues" page: Identify mitigation measures that are specified within the report, if any. Also, identify any special issues that are addressed within the document that should be considered by the Project Team as it makes decisions regarding the project.

"Signature" page: Signatures of Prime Consultant and KYTC/DEA Environmental Project Manager/Reviewer will attest that the Environmental Assessment meets the requirements set forth in this checklist. Signatures of KYTC Project Manager and District Environmental Coordinator ensure that the findings of the report, including impacts to the project and mitigation measures have been presented to the project development team and are acceptable.

Completed form is to be delivered to KYTC with the document. Previous checklists for the document, or a copy thereof, shall be attached to the current checklist.

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Title Page
			• Identify level of Environmental Documentation (EA)
			• Adequate project description
			• Project Item Number
			• Statement: "Submitted Pursuant To 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c) By The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Environmental Analysis
			• Identify Cooperating Agency(s)
			• Date of Submittal (month and year)
			Signature Page
			• Identify level of Environmental Documentation (EA)
			• Include adequate project description
			• Project Item Number
			• Statement: "Submitted Pursuant To 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c) By The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Environmental Analysis
			• Identify Cooperating Agency(s)
			• Signature line for FHWA and KYTC
			Project Impact Profile
			• Fill out Project Impact Profile Sheet and attach to document
			• Identify further work required for unresolved issues

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Table of Contents
			• List areas of focus and appropriate page numbers where the information can be found
			• Listing of exhibits, figures, and tables
			Purpose and Need
			• Identify the Purpose and Need of the project
			• Discuss project description and setting
			• Description of existing facility
			• Briefly describe the project history including actions taken to date (intermediate planning, scoping etc.)
			Identify and provide discussion on the following, as it pertains to the Purpose and Need:
			• Logical termini/independent utility
			• System Linkage
			• Safety/accident analysis data
			• Roadway deficiencies
			• Modal Interrelationships – How will the proposed facility interface with and serve to complement airports, rail road facilities, mass transit services, etc.
			• Level of service/capacity/congestion mitigation
			• Status of the project relative to the six year plan and STIP
			• Economic development enhancement
			• Mandated by legislation, if applicable
			• Provide an Exhibit showing the project area

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Build Alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe each alternative from their respective logical termini points Discuss typical sections/design features for each alternative. Include interchanges, additional collector roads, shoulder and pavement widths, Access, grade, turn lanes, etc. Discuss design speeds, anticipated LOS, and traffic data Include comparative table to identify the environmental impacts of each alternative Discuss opportunities for providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities Discuss Congestion Management, Mass Transit, and light rail options for the project. Statement that the final selection of an alternative will be made only after consideration of impacts and public hearing comments Sufficient (legible, understandable) exhibits showing alternatives Discuss 4(f) avoidance alternative(s), if necessary Identify Preferred Alternative, if applicable, and provide justification Include comparative table of estimated project cost (design, right-of-way, utilities, construction) for each alternative

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Environmental Impacts
			Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss current conditions and attainment status of the project area Discuss studies that have been conducted and which air quality model was used Place Air Quality Conformity statement in document. Project must be in conforming TIP (give page number) Discuss regional compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Discuss current and anticipated carbon monoxide levels for each alternative Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Discuss mitigation, minimization, or avoidance options that would minimize environmental impacts to air quality
			Noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss current conditions, including existing ambient noise levels Identify sensitive noise receptors (schools, churches, hospitals, etc) Compare existing and predicted noise levels with noise abatement criteria (NAC) for each alternative. Discuss noise impacts for which each alternative Discuss reasonable and feasible noise abatement measures that would likely be incorporated into the project (i.e., noise barrier walls, berms, truck restrictions, vertical separations, speed limits), if necessary Statement that final decision on implementation of abatement measures will be made after completion of the project design and the public involvement process Statement regarding contractor requirements to restrict or reduce transmission of noise during construction activity Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Provide exhibit that shows sensitive noise receptors and location where noise receptor monitoring took place

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Water Quality and Stream Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions including water quality analysis, existing streams, and aquatic and riparian habitat Discuss studies that have been conducted Discuss water quality analysis and aquatic and riparian habitat Discuss potential impacts for each alternative (channel changes, culverts, bridges) Include comparative table which shows water quality impacts for each alternative Discuss consultation with DOW, USACE, and any other appropriate agencies Identify and discuss public water sources, wells, and groundwater runoff Discuss efforts to avoid and minimize impacts, and appropriate mitigation Discuss permits that may be required Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Provide an exhibit which shows blueline streams
			Floodplains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 100 year floodplains using National Flood Insurance Program maps Identify encroachments of project alternatives onto floodplains Discuss efforts to avoid and minimize encroachment Discuss coordination required (FEMA, DOW, other agencies) Discuss permits that are required if applicable Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (discuss and identify location of jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the U.S.) Discuss field studies that were conducted Discuss results of National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps Discuss potential wetland impacts Discuss agency coordination and permits that may be required Discuss efforts to avoid and minimize impacts and appropriate mitigation Include statement that exact determination of impacts to jurisdictional wetlands will be made by DEA after final design Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Table identifying wetland type, number of acres, and approximate area of impact for each alternative Include exhibit showing location of wetlands for each alternative

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Wild and Scenic Rivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (identify designated wild and scenic rivers) Discuss involvement with any stream designated as “wild and scenic river” Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Provide Exhibit showing location and impact of wild and scenic river, if applicable
			Federally Threatened and Endangered Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (terrestrial ecosystems; habitat types, quality and distribution etc.) Discuss coordination with USFWS, KDFWR, and KNPC Identify any federally threatened or endangered species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat that may be impacted Discuss how the project would affect wildlife migration patterns, if applicable Include exhibit showing location of critical habitat, if present, and avoidance alternatives Discuss Biological Assessment (BA) requirements and, if applicable, Section 7 Consultation requirements Discuss mitigation of impacts to T&E species or critical habitat, if necessary Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Section 106 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify consulting parties, including federally recognized Native American tribes Discuss efforts to consult with Native American tribes, local governmental agencies, and other interested parties Discuss an involvement that other agencies/organizations (public groups, citizens advisory groups, resource agencies, etc.) may have had throughout the project process
			Historic Structures or Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss studies that were conducted in determining historic characteristics of the area Describe Area of Potential Effect [APE] Identify properties eligible or determined to be eligible for National Register Discuss potential effects on each historic property for each alternative Reference coordination with SHPO and FHWA regarding eligibility and effects (include letters in Appendix) Discuss any adverse effects and avoidance alternatives or minimization and mitigation, if required Reference MOA in Appendix, if applicable Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Provide exhibit which identifies APE, and all Historic Structures and/or Districts within the project corridor

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Archaeological Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Area of Potential Effect (APE) • Discuss archaeological investigations that were conducted for each alternative • Describe all archaeological sites identified • Discuss any parcel(s) for which Phase I could not be completed due to lack of property owner permission (document efforts to access property) If access to the property is not granted an MOA is required. • Identify sites recommended for additional work (Phase II) • Identify any sites eligible or determined to be eligible for National Register • Reference coordination with SHPO regarding archaeological sites and recommendations for further work (include letters in Appendix) • Include MOU in Appendix for any sites that require additional work • Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts
			Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss existing land use • Discuss project compatibility with existing land use plans • Discuss growth inducement (current development trends; indirect effects of the project on land use patterns, population density and growth rate) • Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts • Provide exhibit, which shows current land use as well as anticipated changes in land use, if applicable.

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Community Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish baseline conditions (existing neighborhoods and communities) • Discuss population • Discuss age distribution • Discuss community cohesion • Identify family or socially interdependent clusters (two or more residents share phone, car, etc.) • Discuss employment and labor force • Identify community resources (parks, churches, shopping, schools, emergency services, libraries, etc.) • Provide exhibit identifying (parks, churches, shopping, schools, emergency services, libraries, etc.) • Discuss impacts on travel patterns, accessibility, community facilities, economic vitality, established business districts, and overall public safety • Discuss social and cultural loss to the community by those displaced, if applicable • Discuss impacts on economic vitality in project area and on established business districts • Reference any consultation with community, city or county officials • Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Relocations and Displacements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (available housing and commercial/industrial facilities based on current market data) Identify number & type of relocations (residential, commercial, industrial, non-profit, etc.) for each alternative Discuss coordination with the MPO or other governmental agencies to identify any other proposed projects or activities that would compete for available comparable housing Discuss Relocation Assistance Program (Last Resort Housing, if applicable), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1966 Include statement, if applicable, that the acquisition and relocation program will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 Include a table to summarize relocations for each alternative Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts
			Farmland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (identify farmland in project corridor) Discuss impacts to farmland Include NRCS LESA Form AD 1006 Discuss feasible alternative to avoid farmland impacts if LESA score exceeds 160 points Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts Provide exhibit that identifies prime farmland in the project corridor.

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Environmental Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions Include statement that project complies with Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice guidance Identify impacts to minority and/or low income population Discuss avoidance, minimization and mitigation, if applicable Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts
			Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (identify existing facilities and their use for recreation or transportation) Discuss opportunities for providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts
			UST/Hazardous Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (identify known and potential sites) Identify sites recommended for Phase II site assessments and/or remediation Discuss KYTC process for remediation (if remediation is necessary) Include summary table of sites and identify associated alternative Include exhibit showing location of all sites Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
Insert check mark and page number(s) as appropriate			Visual Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish baseline conditions (existing view shed) Discuss view of proposed road from surrounding area and view from the proposed road Discuss cumulative and indirect impacts
			Impacts of Construction Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss potential adverse impacts (noise, traffic congestion, detours, etc.) Discuss waste and borrow sites Refer to <u>KYTC Standard Specs for Road and Bridge Construction</u>
			Mitigation Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify mitigation commitments for each viable alternative
			Comments and Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of correspondence Public Involvement activities

Page Number(s)	Complete	DEA	CATEGORY
			Section 4(f)/Programmatic 4(f) and or 6(f) (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Section 4(f) impacts are unavoidable on all alternatives, the 4(f) discussion must be included as Section VI of the EA, and it must be demonstrated that there are no other feasible and prudent alternatives available. • Measures taken to minimize harm to the 4(f) resource and any required mitigation measures must also be discussed (attach MOA if required) • Identify and discuss any 6(f) impacts associated with the project (attach MOA if required)

Comments: Discuss supplemental information, guidance or instructions that required deviation from the checklist. Discuss all categories that contain “NA” in the “Complete” columns of this format. Comments regarding the content and format of this form and/or its applicability may also be submitted through this section.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

I have reviewed the project documentation and attest that those responsible for its preparation are familiar with the requirements set forth in the checklist above and that proper management controls were in effect throughout the course of document development to assure that the document is complete, thorough and addresses all applicable checklist components.

Prime Consultant

Date

Recommended for Approval By:

KYTC/DEA Environmental Project Manager/Reviewer

Date

Team Review of Commitments

The findings of the report, including impacts to the project and project commitments, have been presented to the Project Team and will be considered during the development of this project.

KYTC/District Environmental Coordinator

Date

Project Manager

Date